

Stoneham Finance and Advisory Board  
Monday, September 17, 2018 - 7:00pm  
Stoneham Town Hall Auditorium

Attendees:

Susan Lippman, Chair  
Heidi Bilbo, Vice-Chair  
Andrew Harmon, Secretary

Devin Desmarais      George Drugas  
Christian Kulikoski      Cory Mashburn  
Domenic Martignetti

*Absent:* Ed Hurley, Tim Waitkevitch

Guests:

Anthony Wilson - FAB Liaison, Stoneham Select Board

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Review Warrant Articles
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Minutes:

Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ms. Lippman requested that all members stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair then moved to discuss the approval of the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Harmon indicated that meeting minutes were not yet ready.

Board Chair moved to address Agenda Item #3. Ms. Lippman read Warrant Article I out loud. Mr. Harmon introduced a motion to call for no action. Mr. Drugas seconded. Ms. Bilbo indicated that the FAB should take up the issue as it allows for doggie day care centers. Board votes unanimously against call for no action.

The Board then discussed how they may not have enough information to make a recommendation. Ms. Bilbo introduced a motion to defer action. Mr. Desmarais seconded. All members in favor.

Ms. Bilbo will follow up for more information.

Board Chair read Warrant Article II out loud. Mr. Drugas introduced a motion for favorable action. Mr. Harmon seconded. Ms. Lippman asked whether the zoning change would increase tax assessments and indicated it was unclear at this point. Mr. Harmon added that there would be more permits issued. All members in favor. Mr. Martignetti will speak to the Article at Town Meeting.

Board Chair read Warrant Article III out loud. Indicated the reference is to a small parcel off of Maple Street. Ms. Bilbo indicated that this was to create more open space to increase the likelihood of receiving grants. Mr. Kulikoski introduced a motion for favorable action. Mr. Martignetti seconded. All members in favor. Mr. Desmarais will speak to the Article at Town Meeting.

Board Chair read Warrant Article IV out loud. Ms. Bilbo introduced a motion for no action. Mr. Drugas seconded. All members in favor.

Board Chair read Warrant Article V out loud. Mr. Harmon introduced a motion for favorable action. Mr. Drugas seconded. Mr. Kulikoski asked who has authority over this fund. Ms. Bilbo mentioned the Select Board has control. Mr. Desmarais asked what the funds would be used for. One member in favor of motion (Harmon); all others opposed.

Ms. Bilbo made a motion to defer the action until the FAB has more information. Mr. Desmarais seconded. 7 members in favor; one opposed (Harmon). Mr. Desmarais will inquire for more information.

Board Chair indicated that Article VI will be linked to Article V. Ms. Lippman then moved on to read Article VII out loud. Mr. Kulikoski made a motion for favorable action. Mr. Drugas seconded. All in favor. Ms. Lippman will speak to it at Town Meeting.

Board Chair read Warrant Article VIII out loud. Ms. Lippman began discussion with a question of whether this was already illegal activity. Mr. Mashburn indicates that it is, but that the Article provides another layer of enforcement. Mr. Mashburn then inquired as to whether the recommended fee structure was the most allowable. Mr. Kulikoski added that the larger the fee structure, the harder something is to enforce. Mr. Desmarais asked who is liable if a renter throws a party. General consensus was that the landlord was liable.

Anthony Wilson of the Stoneham Select Board provided some background to the Warrant Article. Stoneham's only current tool for this type of behavior is criminal prosecution. A fee structure provides an enforcement level between prosecution and a toothless warning.

Mr. Mashburn made a motion to defer action; Mr. Kulikoski seconded. All in favor. Mr. Mashburn will follow up with more information.

Board Chair then read Warrant Article IX out loud. Mr. Kulikoski made a motion for favorable action; Mr. Drugas seconded. All in favor. Mr. Harmon will speak to this Article at Town Meeting.

Board Chair then read Warrant Article X out loud. Mr. Desmarais asked what the cemetery budget is for the year. Ms. Bilbo explained that this Article was intended to fund normal functions prior to Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Desmarais asked why the Spring work is not in the budget. Anthony Wilson from the Select Board explained that the cemetery funds are in trust and require a special vote to remove funds. Mr. Desmarais wondered if this was eating into the Capital budget. Ms. Bilbo made a motion to defer action; Mr. Martignetti seconded. All in favor. Ms. Bilbo will follow up for more information.

Board Chair then read Warrant Article XI out loud. Mr. Mashburn indicated that the requested funds are to pay the new position for half of the year. Mr. Drugas made a motion for favorable action. Mr. Mashburn seconded.

Mr. Desmarais asked whether this position will have a specific financial benefit. Mr. Drugas indicated that he had asked the same question at the Tri-Board meeting and the Town Administrator expected increased efficiency. Ms. Lippman added that a purchasing agent would also help keep bids in compliance with applicable laws.

Mr. Desmarais asked whether the Town Administrator had identified any specific problem areas. There was agreement that this was part of the Administrator's continued efforts to fix bad practices. Vote was then taken with Mr. Desmarais opposed. All other members in favor. Mr. Kulikoski will speak to the Article at Town Meeting. Mr. Desmarais will speak to the opposition.

Board Chair then read Warrant Article XII out loud. With Mr. Waitkevitch not in attendance, Mr. Martignetti makes a motion to defer; Mr. Kulikoski seconded. All in favor.

Board Chair then read Warrant Article XIII out loud. Mr. Harmon makes a motion for no action. Mr. Desmarais seconded. Anthony Wilson of the Select Board indicates that this Article establishes a Tree Committee. This is citizen-led and this citizen is passionate about trees. Vote is taken on motion. Three in favor (Kulikowski, Mashburn, Harmon). Five opposed (Desmarais, Bilbo, Lippman, Martignetti, Drugas). Motion fails. Ms. Bilbo makes a motion to defer action; Mr. Martignetti seconded. Five in favor (same as above), three against (same as above). Motion passes. Discussion deferred.

Board Chair moves on to agenda Item #4. Mr. Desmarais asks about nameplates. Ms. Lippman will follow up.

Mr. Kulikoski mentions Trivia Night. Mr. Martignetti mentions High School Soccer Club Alumni Game.

Ms. Bilbo asked Board Chair about training opportunities. Nothing new to report.

Mr. Kulikoski makes a motion to adjourn; Mr. Mashburn seconded. All in favor.